

# NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA  
Department of  
Industrial Relations  
**News For Immediate Release**  
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## **DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFIED UNEMPLOYED WORKERS IN SEVEN ADDITIONAL COUNTIES**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, September 9, 2005 . . . . .Unemployed workers in seven additional counties declared disaster areas on September 8, as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina, may be eligible for benefits under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program. Those counties are: Choctaw, Clarke, Greene, Hale, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa. The counties previously declared disaster areas on August 29 were Baldwin, Mobile, and Washington. All together, 10 counties have persons who may qualify for DUA.

“Persons eligible for DUA benefits are those who worked in, or live in, these counties and became unemployed, or could not engage in their customary self-employment, as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina,” says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

Claims for DUA may be filed by calling the toll-free number, 1-866-234-5382. Generally, persons who are eligible for state unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA, but a claimant may qualify for DUA if state UC benefits are exhausted. Those who are self-employed will be requested to provide a copy of their 2004 income tax records. **The final date to file a claim for Choctaw, Clarke, Greene, Hale, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa counties is October 10, 2005. The final date to file a claim for Baldwin, Mobile, and Washington counties is September 29, 2005.**

DUA services are administered by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations through its network of Unemployment Compensation Call Centers across the state. Funding is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: [www.dir.alabama.gov](http://www.dir.alabama.gov).